

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 SP-02 ICA-11
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R 090026Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3482
INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION GENEVA

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STATE PASS AGRICULTURE FOR RIESX

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, AS
SUBJ: MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM

REF: STATE 144991

1. IN RESPONSE TO DECISION TO INCREASE US MEAT IMPORT RESTRAINT LEVEL BY 200 MILLION POUNDS, AUSTRALIAN MEAT AND LIVESTOCK CORP. (AMLC) HAS RELEASED ADDITIONAL EXPORT ENTITLEMENTS TO US TODAY. THE AMLC HAD FROZEN 45,000 TONS OF ENTITLEMENTS TO ASSURE ADEQUATE BEEF SHIPMENTS DURING SECOND HALF OF 1978 FOLLOWING HEAVY SHIPMENTS FIRST HALF. FOLLOWING EARLIER REPORTS US MIGHT LIFT RESTRAINTS AMLC RELEASED 10,000 TONS QUOTA ENTITLEMENTS JUNE 2, AND REMAINING 35,000 TONS WERE RELEASED TODAY. IT IS EXPECTED THAT SHIPMENT WILL COMMENCE IMMEDIATELY, WITH ARRIVALS IN US EXPECTED TO ESCALATE LATTER PART OF JULY AND EARLY AUGUST. AMLC EXPECTS TO BE ABLE TO SHIP MOST OF INCREASE BEFORE END OF SEPTEMBER, AND WILL MAKE ADDITIONAL QUOTA ENTITLEMENTS AVAILABLE TO EXPORTERS SHOULD NEED ARISE.

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IN VIEW OF LARGE STOCKS OF FROZEN BEEF HELD AT PRESENT (IN EXCESS OF 85,000 METRIC TONS) IMMEDIATE SHIPMENT IS NO PROBLEM PROVIDED VESSELS ARE AVAILABLE.

2. COMMENT: GOA OFFICIALS ARE EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH US DECISION, AND INDICATED THAT IT WAS QUOTE THE BEST NEWS FROM THE US IN PAST THREE YEARS UNQUOTE. THE INCREASED

ALLOCATION WILL PROBABLY BE REFLECTED IN SOMEWHAT
HIGHER SALEYARD PRICES FOR LIVESTOCK AND COULD EASE SOME
OF THE PRESSURES ON GOA FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE TO BEEF
PRODUCERS. ALTHOUGH AT THIS STAGE A SHARP RISE IN DOM-
ESTIC RETAIL BEEF PRICES SEEMS UNLIKELY, SOME CONCERN
HAS BEEN VOICED ABOUT THIS POSSIBILITY, AS HIGHER BEEF
PRICES WOULD BE REFLECTED IN CPI INDEX AND COULD LEAD TO
HIGHER WAGE DEMANDS AND RENEWED INFLATIONARY PRESSURES.
FROM FOREGOING IT IS CLEAR THAT AUSTRALIANS WILL INFORM
ASSISTANT SECRETARY KATZ AT NEXT MEETING THEY WILL HAVE
NO PROBLEM MEETING INCREASE, AND WILL EVEN LOOK FORWARD
TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY SHORTFALL ALLOCATION.
SQUIRE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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